WALT DISNEY

17

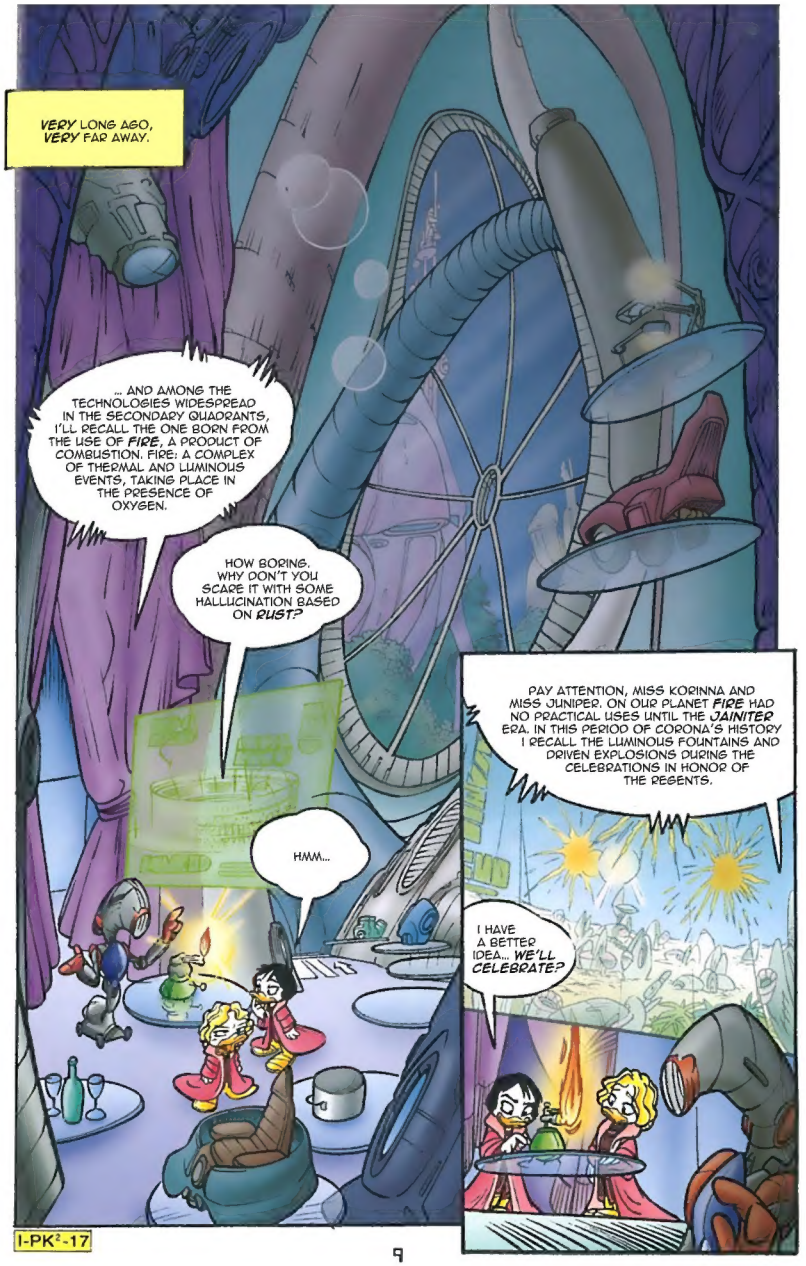
€ 2,22*

TPK 2

"THE QUADRILOGY"
EPISODE III

NEL FUOCO

The Walt Disney Company Italia S.p.A. - Mensile n. 17 - GIUGNO 2002 - Sped. A.P. - 45% art.2 c.20/B - L.662/96 - CMP Verona - www.disney.it - *Italy only

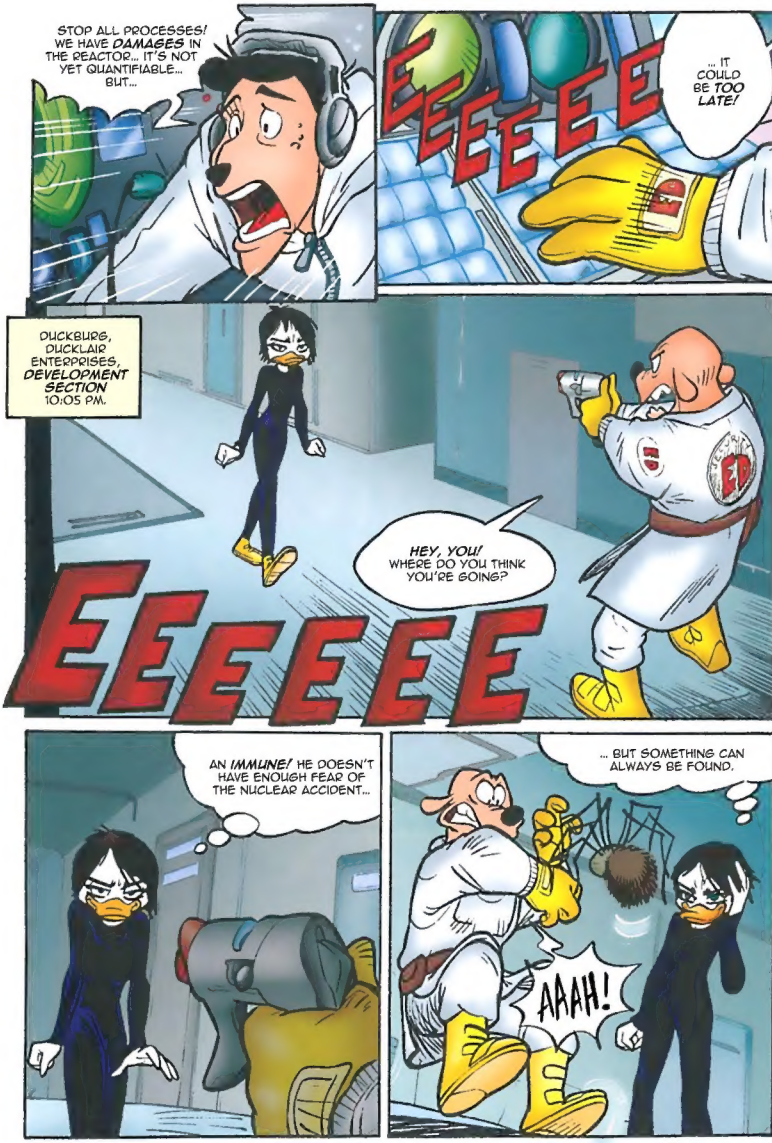

VERY LONG AGO, *VERY* FAR AWAY.
... AND AMONG THE TECHNOLOGIES WIDESPREAD IN THE SECONDARY QUADRANTS, I'LL RECALL THE ONE BORN FROM THE USE OF *FIRE*, A PRODUCT OF COMBUSTION. FIRE: A COMPLEX OF THERMAL AND LUMINOUS EVENTS, TAKING PLACE IN THE PRESENCE OF OXYGEN.
HOW BORING. WHY DON'T YOU SCARE IT WITH SOME HALLUCINATION BASED ON *RUST*?
HMM...
PAY ATTENTION, MISS KORINNA AND MISS JUNIPER. ON OUR PLANET *FIRE* HAD NO PRACTICAL USES UNTIL THE *JANITOR* ERA. IN THIS PERIOD OF CORONA'S HISTORY I RECALL THE LUMINOUS FOUNTAINS AND DRIVEN EXPLOSIONS DURING THE CELEBRATIONS IN HONOR OF THE REGENTS.
I HAVE A BETTER IDEA... *WE'LL CELEBRATE*?

WE'LL CELEBRATE!
WOOOSH
THIS WAY, PLEASE, MISS KORINNA AND MISS JUNIPER. ELECTRIC CURRENT IS, IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE, THE SECOND AMONG THE FORMS OF ENERGY USED IN THE SECONDARY QUADRANTS.
I RESPECTFULLY RECALL YOUR ATTENTION, MISS KORINNA AND MISS JUNIPER.
BEAUTIFUL, IS IT NOT?
AH...
I RESPECTFULLY RECALL YOUR ATTENTION ON THE DANGER OF THERMAL PHENOMENA RELATIVE TO FIRE.
WAMP
BUT... THE ENTIRE MUSEUM WILL BURN!
IT'S ALL OLD STUFF. IT'S USELESS.
I RESPECTFULLY RECALL YOUR ATTENTION ON THE FACT THAT THE DESTRUCTION OF COLLECTIVE GOODS IS LIABLE TO A FINE BETWEEN 10 AND 100 KRONIANS.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE MUSEUM?
WARN SECURITY, SIR!
I RESPECTFULLY RECALL YOUR ATTENTION, MISS KORINNA AND MISS JUNIPER, ON THE FACT THAT THE TEMPERATURE RANGE FOR MY OPTIMUM PERFORM-M-M-M-M-ANCE IS BETWEEN 12 DEGRAS AND 109 DEGRAS.
THE RANGE HAS BEEN EXCEEDED. 200 DEGRAS. WANT TO SET THE TIME FOR TOM-M-M-MORROWS LESSON, BEFORE I'M DISABLED... I RESPEC... CRACKLE!

JUNIPER! KORINNA! WHERE ARE YOU?
KORINNA!
I'M HERE!
WE'RE HERE...
"IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!"
"WERE YOU SCARED?"
"NO, NO FEAR. THIS LIGHT IS BEAUTIFUL. HERE..."
NEL FUOCO
Walt Disney

VERY LONG AFTER.
DUCKBURG,
DUCKLAIR ENTERPRISES,
10:04 PM.
DANGER
A FAILURE IN THE REACTOR!
"NO FEAR..."
IMPOSSIBLE! ALL PARAMETERS ARE NORMAL!
I S-SAID THAT THERE'S A FAILURE!
HMM... THEY'RE RUNNING ABOUT... SOMEONE MUST HAVE GOTTEN A RAISE.

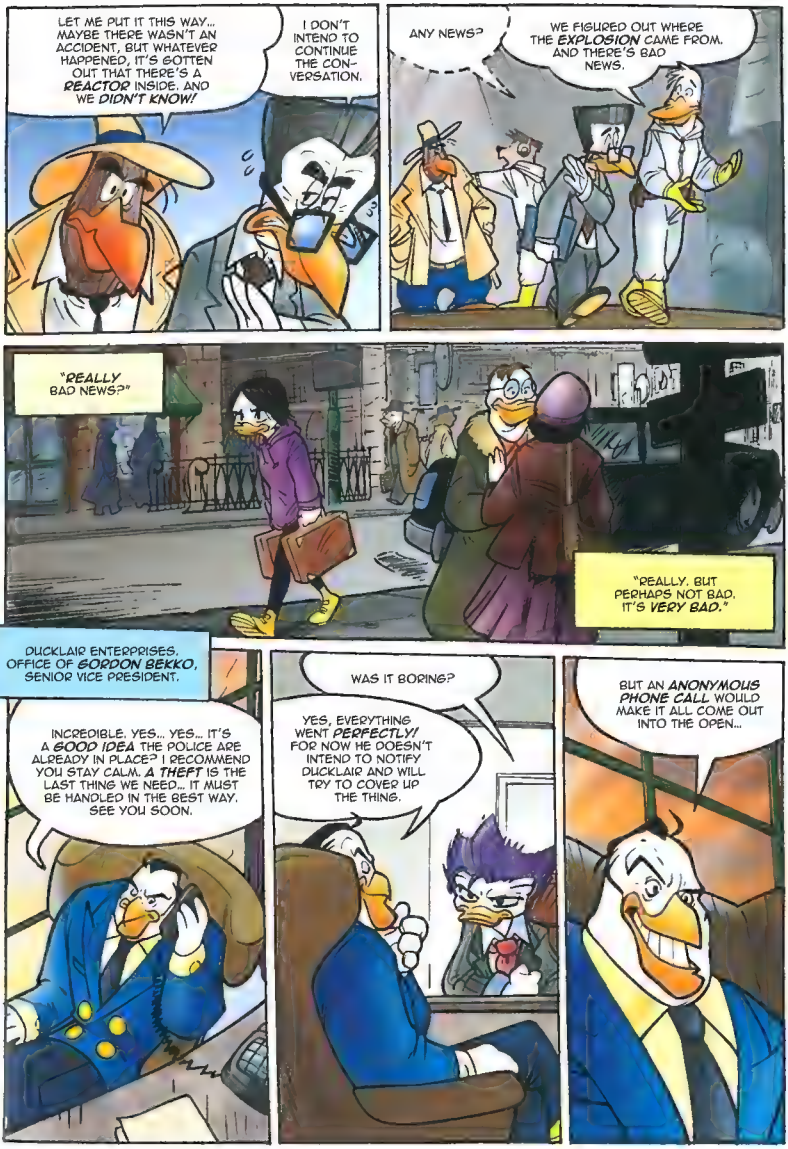

STOP ALL PROCESSES! WE HAVE DAMAGES IN THE REACTOR... IT'S NOT YET QUANTIFIABLE... BUT...
EEEEEE
... IT COULD BE TOO LATE!
DUCKBURG, DUCKLAIR ENTERPRISES, DEVELOPMENT SECTION 10:05 PM.
HEY, YOU! WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
EEEEEE
AN IMMUNE! HE DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH FEAR OF THE NUCLEAR ACCIDENT...
... BUT SOMETHING CAN ALWAYS BE FOUND.
AAAH!

GETITOFFGETIT-
AAAARGH!
HERE IT IS! THE CODE, NOW...
DUCKLAIR ENTERPRISES, 10:08 PM.
EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY!
BANG!!!
IT'S NO USE! IT'S OVER!
DON'T EVEN... FEEL... PAINFUL...
BANG!!!
LOOK AT THEM! THEY'RE ALSO BEING WITTY!

EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY!
PERFECT. EVERYTHING'S THERE. ALL THAT REMAINS IS TO GET OUT!
DUCKLAIR ENTERPRISES, 10:10 PM.
IT'S HORRIBLE, SIR! THE CITY'S IN DANGER!
STAY CALM, AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE! AND DON'T TELL OTHERS ABOUT IT! NOT YET!
I'M SORRY, MR. BORING! I ISSUED A WARNING A FEW MINUTES AGO! IT'S THE PROCEDURE!
POLICE CAR 218, 10:15 PM.
FANGUS? WE HAVE AN INTERESTING REPORT. I COULD TELL YOU WHEN AND WHERE.
I'LL ADD ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS TO THE USUAL TARIFF IF YOU ALSO TELL ME WHY AND WHO!
"ADD ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY AND YOU'LL BE PLEASED. IT'S SOMETHING THAT WILL MAKE NOISE, TRUST ME!"

QUICK OPENING ANTIPANIC DOOR
MAINTAIN SAFETY DISATANCE
OUT!
KA WOOOOM
THERE! IT'S REALLY OVER...
AAAH!
BOYS, YOU'RE REALLY REVVED UP!
B-BUT... I'M ALIVE!
LIVELY, I'D SAY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
10:16 PM.
THE REACTOR... EVERYTHING SEEMS FINE, NOW!

AM I WRONG OR WAS THERE A KAWOOM?
10:30 P.M.
I WASN'T WRONG, THERE'S ALREADY A LINE!
NOTHING HAPPENED, CAPTAIN! A FALSE ALARM... OVERZEALOUSNESS ON PART OF THE TECHNICIANS!
A LITTLE VOICE TOLD ME ABOUT A NUCLEAR ACCIDENT, MR. BORING. AM I OVERZEALOUS IF I ASK FOR EXPLANATIONS?
YOU WORK FOR TELEVISION AS JOURNALIST, IT SEEMS. FORGET ABOUT FICTION...

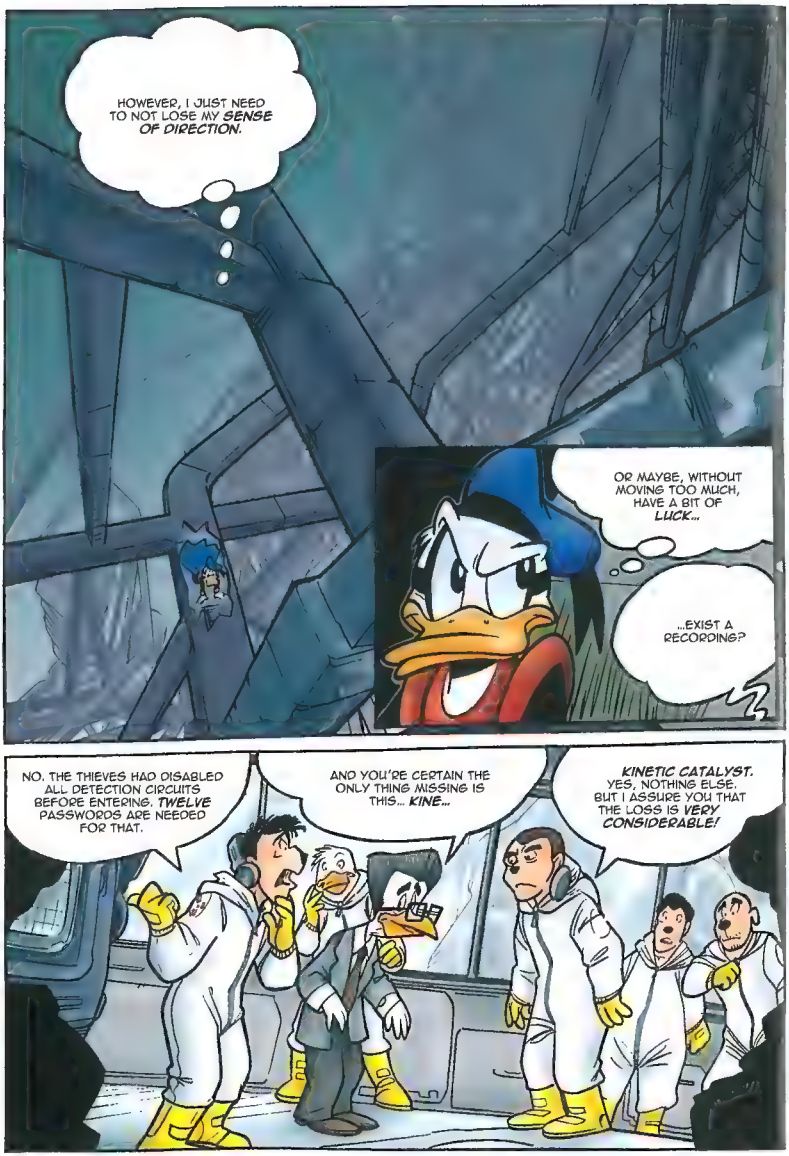

LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY... MAYBE THERE WASN'T AN ACCIDENT, BUT WHATEVER HAPPENED, IT'S GOTTEN OUT THAT THERE'S A REACTOR INSIDE. AND WE DIDN'T KNOW!
I DON'T INTEND TO CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION.
ANY NEWS?
WE FIGURED OUT WHERE THE EXPLOSION CAME FROM. AND THERE'S BAD NEWS.
"REALLY BAD NEWS?"
"REALLY. BUT PERHAPS NOT BAD. IT'S VERY BAD."
DUCKLAIR ENTERPRISES, OFFICE OF GORDON BEKKO, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT.
INCREDIBLE. YES... YES... IT'S A GOOD IDEA THE POLICE ARE ALREADY IN PLACE? I RECOMMEND YOU STAY CALM. A THEFT IS THE LAST THING WE NEED... IT MUST BE HANDLED IN THE BEST WAY. SEE YOU SOON.
WAS IT BORING?
YES, EVERYTHING WENT PERFECTLY! FOR NOW HE DOESN'T INTEND TO NOTIFY DUCKLAIR AND WILL TRY TO COVER UP THE THING.
BUT AN ANONYMOUS PHONE CALL WOULD MAKE IT ALL COME OUT INTO THE OPEN...

THE DUCKLAIR SHARES WILL PLUMMET ON THE STOCK MARKET. AND I'LL BE THERE TO BUY THEM. IN FRONT OF YOU IS THE NEXT MAJORITY SHAREHOLDER OF DUCKLAIR ENTERPRISES.
BEST WISHES, BUT IT'S A COMPLICATED MATTER. I JUST NEED TO GET REVENGE!
I JUST NEED TO SEE HIM STEPPED ON, LIKE HE STEPPED ON ME!
MONEY, money
DUCKLAIR THE BIG BOSS
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE, APPARENTLY. AND AT THIS POINT, YOU MIGHT AS WELL KNOW...
IT WAS SOMEONE VERY HIGH UP WHO ORGANIZED EVERYTHING.
YES? WHO?
"PERMIT ME A LITTLE SUSPENSE. MEANWHILE, THINK ABOUT IT. WHAT DO YOU DRINK?"
RRRRR

RRR

HERE IT WILL BE FINE.

DUCKLAIR ENTERPRISES.
ARE THE ANTI-INTRUSION SYSTEMS IN PLACE? THERE WERE FAR TOO MANY *NOSEY PARKERS* OUT THERE!
IN PLACE AND AT *MAXIMUM*. HOLD ONTO YOUR *BADGE*...
... *WITHOUT IT* YOU CAN'T TAKE A STEP, HENCEFORTH.
ZZZ
DEPEND ON *WHERE* YOU'RE STEPPING.
LET'S GO, BORING'S IN A HURRY!
ARE THE *OTHER FILTERS* ALSO ACTIVATED?
OF COURSE.
?
HERE THE PATH IS CLEAR. ALTHOUGH IT REMINDS ME A BIT OF THAT MOVIE WITH THE *MONSTER IN THE PIPES*.


HOWEVER, I JUST NEED TO NOT LOSE MY SENSE OF DIRECTION.
OR MAYBE, WITHOUT MOVING TOO MUCH, HAVE A BIT OF LUCK...
...EXIST A RECORDING?
NO. THE THIEVES HAD DISABLED ALL DETECTION CIRCUITS BEFORE ENTERING. TWELVE PASSWORDS ARE NEEDED FOR THAT.
AND YOU'RE CERTAIN THE ONLY THING MISSING IS THIS... KINE...
KINETIC CATALYST. YES, NOTHING ELSE. BUT I ASSURE YOU THAT THE LOSS IS VERY CONSIDERABLE!

HOW DOES THE DEVICE WORK?
WELL, IT'S FAIRLY SIMPLE...
... IMPLE...
WELL, I'M REALLY LUCKY! NOW THEY'RE EXPLAINING EVERYTHING BY CHAPTER AND VERSE! SPIT IT OUT!
HEY... IT'S JUST A FIGURE OF SPEECH!
HIIIISSS
THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE CAVITIES. I HAVE AN ALARM FROM SCOUT DRONE 230!
YOU SEE ANYTHING?
"NO... THE FRONT CAMERAS ARE OUT OF ORDER!"
THE CAPE IS JUST A NUISANCE IN HERE...
ROOORRR

BUT THERE'S STILL THE MOTION SENSORS AND ODORMETERS...
ROOOR
THE CAP IS JUST A NUISANCE, DOWN HERE...
RORRR
... AND ALL THE MICROPHONES. WHATEVER IT IS, IT TOOK IT UP!
CRACK
RIIIP
AAAAAH!
IT S-SCREAMED. I DON'T THINK IT'S A THING.
HOWEVER, IT'S NO LONGER NOTHING.
GROOOR
MUNCH
CROCK
GRAAAKRR
BUT I SOMEWHAT WANTED TO KEEP THE COSTUME...

MEANWHILE...
TOO MUCH SUSPENSE RUINS THE SURPRISE. WHO?
LET'S START BY SAYING THAT SHE TOLD ME OF THE GIRL WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE THEFT. I DIDN'T LIKE HER VERY MUCH... SHE HAD A STRANGE LIGHT IN HER EYES.

"LIKE WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT MONEY, BEKKO."

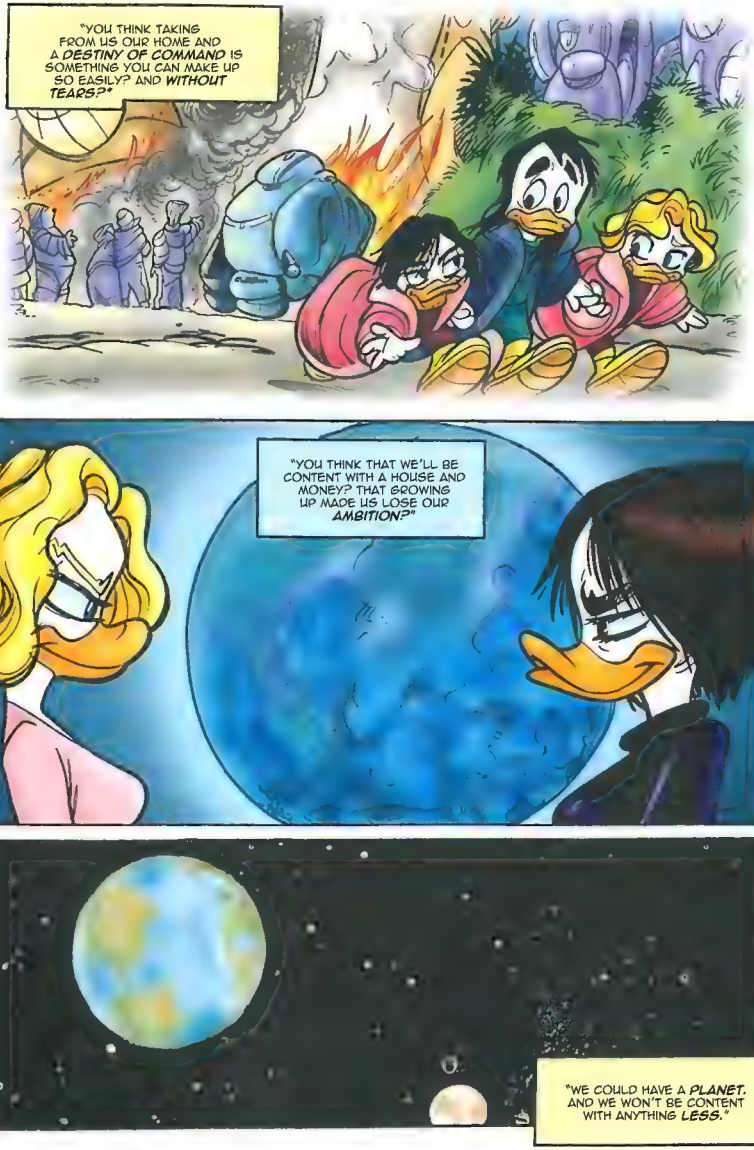
THEN SHE HAD PROCURED SEVERAL ACCESS CODES. AND ONLY THOSE WHO ARE VERY CLOSE TO DUCKLAIR AND HIS CONFIDENTIAL FILES COULD DO IT... DOES ANYONE COME TO MIND?

HIS... HIS DAUGHTER?
YES, PRECISELY JUNIPER. SHE CAME HER A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO. SHE SPOKE LITTLE, BUT THAT LITTLE CONVINCED ME.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF MY PROPOSAL, BEKKO?
I HAVE TO THINK...

THINK ABOUT IT RIGHT NOW.
I... I... I... I... I... I...
NO, I. IS EVERYTHING CLEAR?
YES, YES!
THAT GIRL HAD SOMETHING... A CHAOM... A FORCE!
DON'T TELL ME THAT YOU ALSO HAVE A HEART.
DUCKLAIR MANOR, RESIDENCE OF EVERETT DUCKLAIR.
DO YOU LIKE IT?
IT'S... IT'S BEAUTIFUL. YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE, DAD!

THE ARTIST BELIEVED IT WAS THE ILLUSTRATION OF THE COVER OF A SCIENCE FICTION BOOK.
ONE CAN'T IMAGINE A PLACE LIKE THAT... CORONA!
I THOUGHT THAT A MEMORY OF THE PLACE WHERE YOU WERE BORN SHOULD BE HERE, IN YOUR HOUSE.
MY?
YES, DUCKLAIR MANOR IS YOUR PROPERTY, NOW. YOU BELONG TO THIS PLACE, RIGHTLY SO.
I... I DON'T DESERVE ALL THIS.
AND I DON'T DESERVE A DAUGHTER LIKE YOU!
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TRUE THAT IS, DADDY! YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN BUY YOUR PEACE THIS WAY?


"YOU THINK TAKING FROM US OUR HOME AND A DESTINY OF COMMAND IS SOMETHING YOU CAN MAKE UP SO EASILY? AND WITHOUT TEARS?"
"YOU THINK THAT WE'LL BE CONTENT WITH A HOUSE AND MONEY? THAT GROWING UP MADE US LOSE OUR AMBITION?"
"WE COULD HAVE A PLANET. AND WE WON'T BE CONTENT WITH ANYTHING LESS."

AS AGREED, YOUR TASK WILL BE TO PROVIDE THE THIEF WITH LOGISTICAL SUPPORT.
COULDN'T HAVE ASKED FOR BETTER, BUT FIRST I NEED TO KNOW WHERE TO FIND HER.
SHE'LL NOTIFY US ***HERSELF***... SHE SHOULD ACTUALLY HAVE ALREADY DONE IT!
HMM. EASY, EASY.
CLAC
THERE...
CLUD

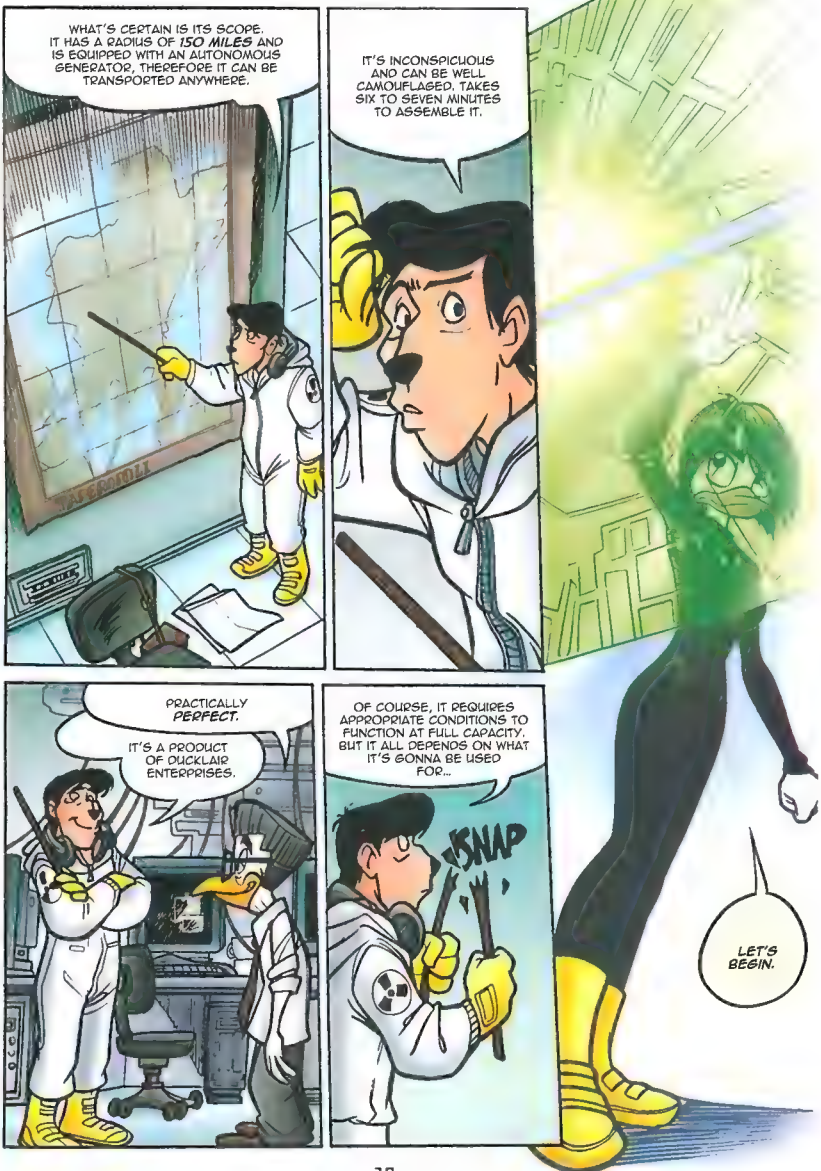
WUUUON
IT'S... BEAUTIFUL! COMPLIMENTS, FATHER!
WUUU

IT'LL BE THE THIRD TIME THAT I...
YET IT'S THE FIRST TIME YOU FEEL SUCH A FEAR... INDEFINITE... YET SO SPECIFIC!
W-WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?
WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF YOU CAME IN?
YOU'LL GET COLD! THINK ABOUT IT!
I'M... SHIVERING... MUST BE FEVER. YES, FEVER... I'LL DO IT LATER... MAYBE I SHOULD GO TO THE INFIRMARY...
CRAC
WITHOUT TURNING. AND WITHOUT TELLING ANYONE ABOUT THIS STRANGE SENSATION, OR THEY'LL THINK YOU HAD A HALLUCINATION.
WITHOUT KNOWING THAT YOU GOT VERY CLOSE. ALMOST INSIDE.

CENTURY. THE REFUGE OF THE AVENGER. JUST THE TIME TO CHANGE CLOTHES.
HAVE YOU BEEN AT A PARTY AND TAKEN THE WRONG COSTUME?
NO, I WAS SO POPULAR THAT THEY STARTED TEARING IT OFF!
LYO. A NOSTALGIC FRIEND.
BAH! THE SUPERHEROES OF THE PAST ALWAYS HAD TOP-CLASS SUITS!
RUSTLE
LOOK! THIS IS BUNKERTANK! STEEL COSTUME 18/10! TWO TONS!
UH HUH. WONDER HOW AGILE IT IS.
IT'S NOT, IN FACT. HE FOUGHT IN PLACE. BUT IT WAS PRACTICALLY IMPREGNABLE!
LIKE A PRESSURE COOKER...
AND COCOAMAN? COSTUME DERIVED FROM COCONUT FIBERS! COCONUT HELMET! ALL HARD STUFF, EVEN IF HE SEEMS SILLY...
SEEMS?!

THEN THERE WAS JETSAM IN HIS UNFORGETTABLE UNIFORM!
DOESN'T SEEM LIKE ANYTHING SPECIAL...
YOU KIDDING? THE COSTUME WAS COMPLETELY EDIBLE! VERY USEFUL ON LONG AND ADVENTUROUS MISSIONS!
HE SHOULD NEVER HAVE FACED THAT HORDE OF GNAMGNAMS FROM BETELGEUSE...
SOMETIMES I GET THE IMPRESSION THAT YOU'RE MAKING FUN OF ME, LYO.
IS THIS ONE OF THEM?
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS. I WANT TO TAKE A GOOD LOOK AROUND.
DO YOU HAVE A PRESENTIMENT? ASTRONGMAN, YOUR PREDECESSOR IN THIS REFUGE, OFTEN HAD THEM.
AND OFTEN THEY WERE WRONG.
ONE DAY YOU'LL TELL ME SOME THINGS ABOUT YOUR FRIEND...

STILL NO WORD... THIS WAITING UNNERVES ME.
SILENCE WAS NOT IN THE DEAL.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
THERE WAS SOME KIND OF APPOINTMENT, WASN'T THERE? SHE WERE TO GIVE US THE WEAPON WITHIN TWO HOURS AFTER THE THEFT, IT'S BEEN FOUR...
AND YOU HOPE TO FIND HER?
IT'S NICE WHEN EVERYONE HAS GREAT TRUST IN YOU.
DUCKLAIR ENTERPRISES, DEVELOPMENT SECTION 10:05 P.M.
CAN'T WE LOCATE THE DEVICE? IN THE END IT TRANSMITS ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES...
NO. IT'S A POTENTIAL INSTRUMENT OF WAR, THUS IT WAS BUILT SPECIFICALLY FOR NOT BEING LOCATED.
THE EFFECTS ARE CRYSTAL CLEAR, BUT THE CAUSES REMAIN HIDDEN.


WHAT'S CERTAIN IS ITS SCOPE. IT HAS A RADIUS OF 150 MILES AND IS EQUIPPED WITH AN AUTONOMOUS GENERATOR, THEREFORE IT CAN BE TRANSPORTED ANYWHERE.
IT'S INCONSPICUOUS AND CAN BE WELL CAMOUFLAGED. TAKES SIX TO SEVEN MINUTES TO ASSEMBLE IT.
PRACTICALLY PERFECT.
IT'S A PRODUCT OF DUCKLAIR ENTERPRISES.
OF COURSE, IT REQUIRES APPROPRIATE CONDITIONS TO FUNCTION AT FULL CAPACITY. BUT IT ALL DEPENDS ON WHAT IT'S GONNA BE USED FOR...
SNAP
LET'S BEGIN.

NUUUON
EASTERN OUTSKIRTS...
EASTERN OUTSKIRTS.
CRACLE
WAMP
WHAT THE...

ROOOAAARRR
IT'S... IT'S A HUGE FIRE... SUDDENLY... KILOMETERS LONG! AND *VERY HIGH!* MOVING ABOUT ONE METER PER SECOND!
UH HUH. WE'LL BE THERE SOON, *ORBISON*...

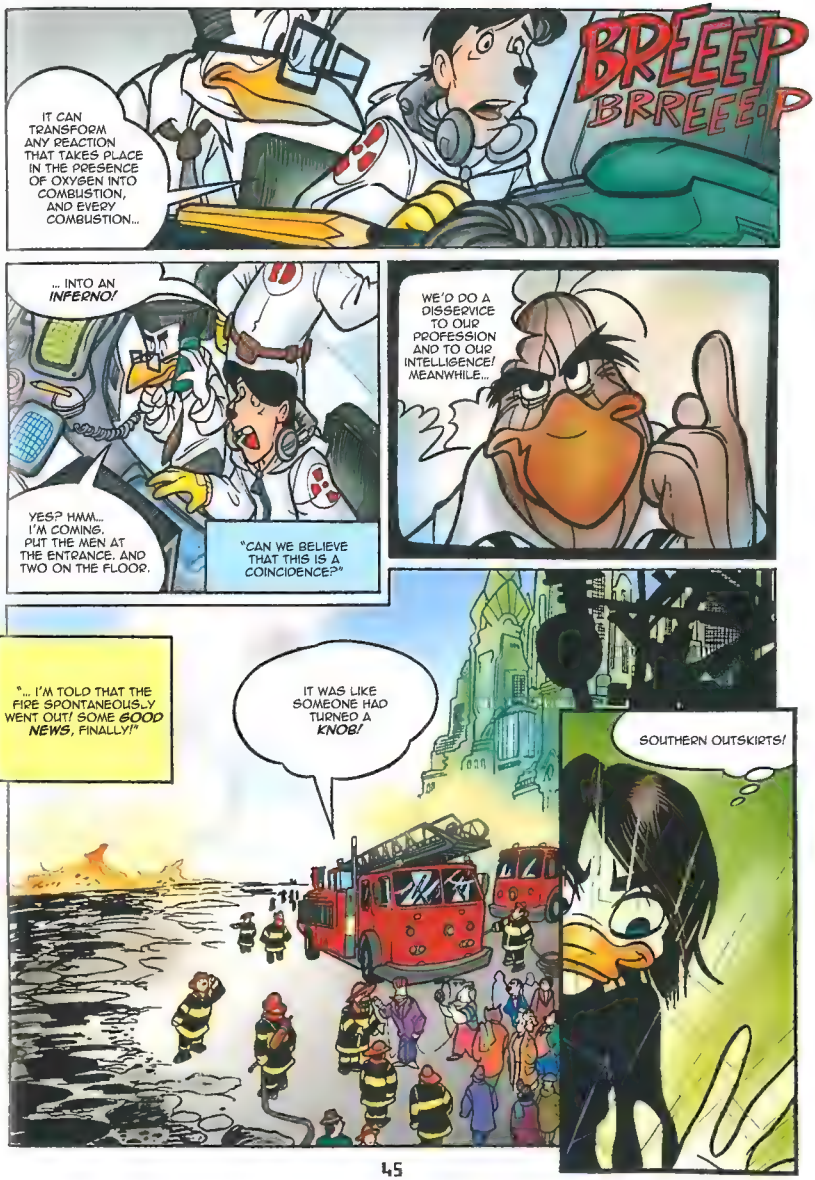
ORBISON?
YEAH. FOURTH TIME HE'S CALLED TODAY. BUT IT SEEMS SERIOUS...
OVERTOWN CHRONICLE
EVER SINCE HE RETIRED, EVEN A HOT STOVE SEEMS SERIOUS TO HIM.
IN FACT, YESTERDAY HE CALLED BECAUSE SMOKE WAS COMING OUT OF A ROTIS-SERIE!
WE'LL SEND SOMEONE ANYWAY. CALMLY.
HIGHER!
IT'S FANTASTIC!

IT'S HORRIBLE!
BARBEQUE? WE HAVE EVERYTHING FOR BARBEQUE, BUT YOU SHOULD TALK TO A CLERK!
AT THAT MOMENT AT DUCKMALL CENTER, DUCKBURG'S HYPERMARKET.
YOU SEE... I'M THE CHIEF OF SECURITY!
OH, YES?
LISTEN TO THAT!

YOU FORGOT TO SAY THAT YOU'RE THE CHIEF OF SECURITY ON TRIAL, RUPERT!
SUBTLETIES!
LIKE THE FACT THAT THAT GUY, UNDER THE GUISE OF ASKING FOR INFORMATION, TOOK A CELLPHONE WITHOUT PAYING?
!
STOP, CRIMINAL!
WHAT THE...
CD MUSIC HI-FI
TUMP
I ALMOST FORGOT TO TELL YOU THAT HE'S AN INSPECTOR, RUPERT. HE'S HERE TO EVALUATE YOU...
HUH?
MMMF!
CAUGHT YOU! HE HE... EHEM...
YES, BUT 1) LATE 2) PATENTLY 3) ABANDONING THE GUARD ZONE! HUNDRED POINTS LESS! AND PUT ME DOWN!
BARNE
LES TENDRESSES VERTES

DON'T GET MAD ABOUT A HUNDRED POINTS! IT SEEMS THAT WE START FROM A BASE OF ONE HUNDRED AND TEN!
GRRR...
GETS DISTRACTED BY COLLEAGUES. TEN POINTS LESS!
WHAT IS SHE DOING?
YOU'RE ASKING ME? IT'S YOU WHO CHOSE HER... BUT AS LONG AS SHE PLAYS HIDE AND SEEK THERE SHOULDN'T BE TOO MANY PROBLEMS, SHOULD THERE?
HIDE AND SEEK? LISTEN!
TWO INCREDIBLE EVENTS OCCUR IN A SHORT TIME FROM ONE ANOTHER: AT DUCKLAIR ENTERPRISES, A STRANGE INCIDENT ALERTS LAW ENFORCEMENT AND AN ENORMOUS FIRE BREAKS OUT IN THE EASTERN PART OF THE CITY!

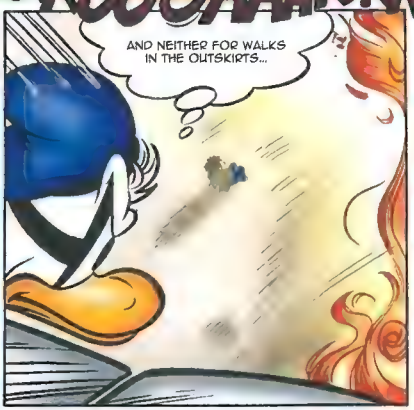
THE STRANGEST THING ABOUT THE FIRE IS ITS VIOLENCE. LET'S LISTEN TO THE FIRE CHIEF.
IT'S INCREDIBLE! EVERYTHING THAT COMES INTO CONTACT WITH THE WALL OF FIRE BURNS WITH A FRIGHTENING INTENSITY! NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT!
"IT'S AS IF SOMEONE WAS BLOWING AT THE FLAMES! IT'S NOT A NORMAL FIRE! WE PUT OUR HANDS ON... OH, WELL, WE GOT THE IDEA."
THE KINETIC CATALYST CAN GREATLY SPEED UP CHEMICAL REACTIONS.
AND IT HAS MUCH LOWER COST THAN THE USUAL EQUIPMENT OF RHODIUM AND OF PALLADIUM. THE EFFICIENCY ISN'T EVEN COMPARABLE...


IT CAN TRANSFORM ANY REACTION THAT TAKES PLACE IN THE PRESENCE OF OXYGEN INTO COMBUSTION, AND EVERY COMBUSTION...
BREEEP
BRREEE-P
... INTO AN *INFERNO!*
YES? HMM... I'M COMING. PUT THE MEN AT THE ENTRANCE. AND TWO ON THE FLOOR.
"CAN WE BELIEVE THAT THIS IS A COINCIDENCE?"
WE'D DO A DISSERVICE TO OUR PROFESSION AND TO OUR INTELLIGENCE! MEANWHILE...
"... I'M TOLD THAT THE FIRE SPONTANEOUSLY WENT OUT! SOME *GOOD NEWS*, FINALLY!"
IT WAS LIKE SOMEONE HAD TURNED A *KNOB!*
SOUTHERN OUTSKIRTS!

W-W WAMP
?

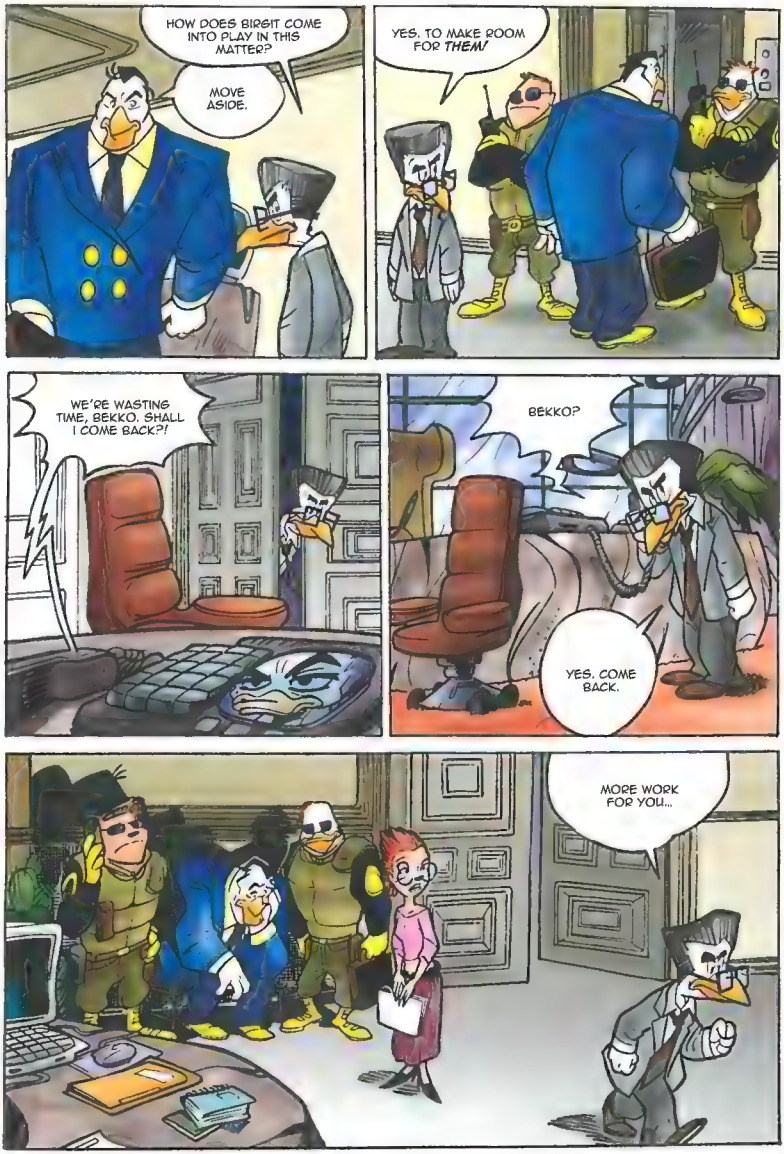
RICHAAARD!
RRROOOAAARR

THIS IS NOT THE DAY FOR COSTUMES!
RRROOOAARR


AND NEITHER FOR WALKS IN THE OUTSKIRTS...

WOW! AVENGER!
IN PERSON. NEED A HAND?
IT MIGHT BE BETTER IF YOU USE TWO!
HA! KIDS TODAY ARE SO FUNNY!
YOU SHOULD HEAR ME WHEN I DON'T HAVE A FIRE IN FRONT OF ME!
WHY NOT? GIVE ME YOUR ADDRESS! AS SOON AS I CAN...
BUSINESS CARDS! KIDS TODAY ARE READY FOR EVERYTHING!
NOT FAR AWAY, BEHIND BARS...
HEY! IS ANYONE THERE?
I-I DON'T WANT IT TO END LIKE THIS!

NOT LIKE THIS, NOT LIKE THIS!
MEANWHILE, THE DUCKLAIR ENTERPRISES SHARES HAS HAD A DROP OF THREE HUNDRED POINTS! IT'S A COLLAPSE THAT INVOLVES ALL COMPANIES CONNECTED TO THE GROUP!
EVIDENTLY WE'RE NOT ALONE IN THINKING THAT EVERETT DUCKLAIR IS INVOLVED IN THIS MATTER!
AWAY, AWAY... I'M NOT AVAILABLE!
FOR THE NEXT YEARS...
MR. BEKKO ISN'T HERE!
AH, REALLY?
BORING! W-WHAT A SURPRISE!
YOU'RE THE SURPRISE. DO YOU KNOW THAT WE MONITOR ALL PERTINENT TELEPHONE LINES WHEN WE HAVE AN ALARM?

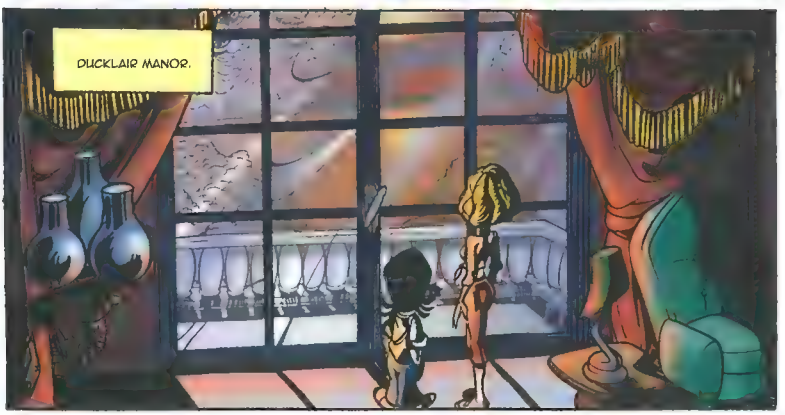

HOW DOES BIRGIT COME INTO PLAY IN THIS MATTER?
MOVE ASIDE.
YES, TO MAKE ROOM FOR *THEM!*
WE'RE WASTING TIME, BEKKO. SHALL I COME BACK?!
BEKKO?
YES. COME BACK.
MORE WORK FOR YOU...

DON'T PANIC... PROCEED ORDERLY TO THE EXITS... THE FIRES AREN'T DIRECTED TOWARDS THIS STRUCTURE...
SANGFROID! SANGFROID!
RUPERT? EVERYTHING ALRIGHT?
YES, LITTLE ONE. I RECOMMEND YOU STAY CLOSE TO ME!
RUPERT! WANT TO MOVE IT? YOU ALSO KNOW THE PROCEDURE! FIRST THE EXITS, THEN...
LITTLE ONE?
NOT ENOUGH! HAVE THE SECONDARY EXITS ALSO OPENED, AND SEND ALL PERSONNEL TO KEEP AN EYE ON THEM!
IMPOSSIBLE! YOU KNOW WELL THAT...
THE RESPONSIBILITY IS *MINE!*
AND Y-YOU CAN KEEP IT! *ALL OF IT!*
WOW!

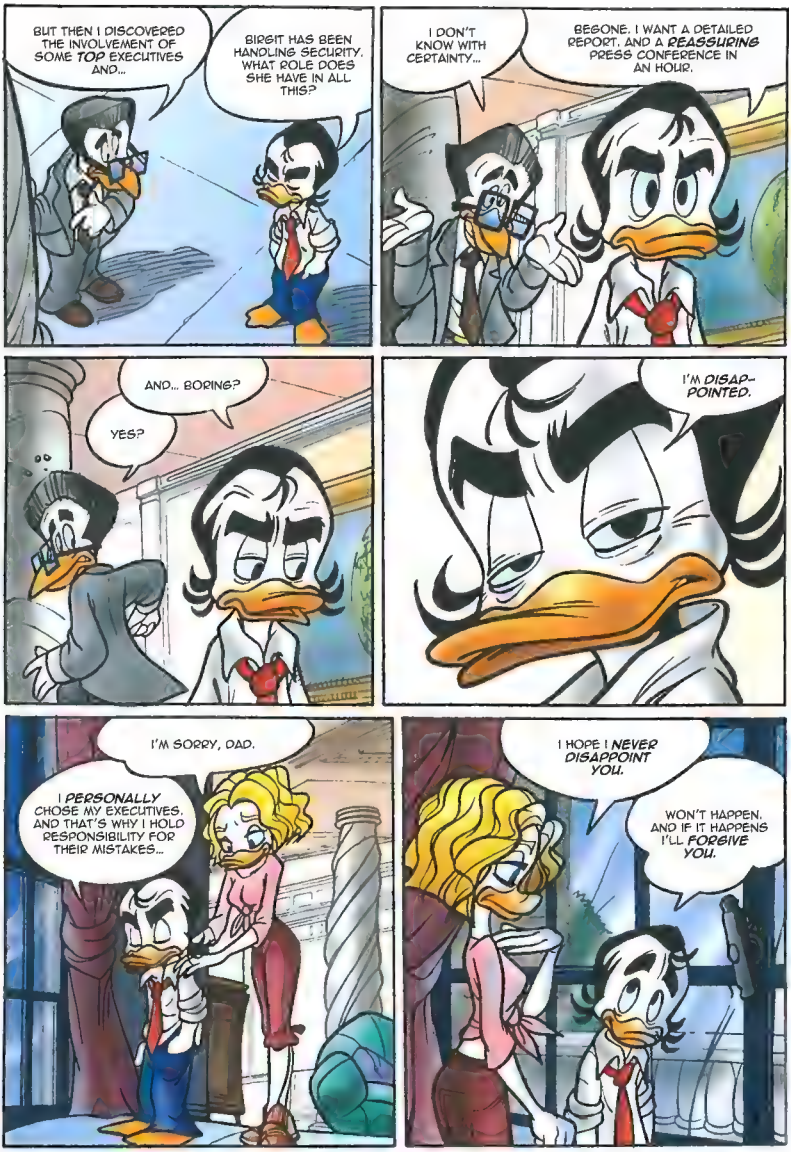
HELP! HELP!
!
EXCUSE ME... YOU CAME AT THE WRONG TIME.
AND YOU AT THE RIGHT ONE, THIS TIME!
SOMEONE'S COMING!
IT'S TOO L-LATE...
SKRAAANG
TO FIND ANOTHER SOLUTION, YES, I'M AFRAID I'LL HAVE TO LET YOU ESCAPE, BOYS!
AVENGER!

FANTASTIC! I CAN'T WAIT TELL THE TALE!
HE HE! DOES IT BURN, DUCK?
CRIMINALS ARE SO FUNNY THESE DAYS!

SORRY FOR THE DELAY, BOYS...
THANKS, AVENGER! WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT ON OUR OWN!
MAKE THEM LAUGH TOO!


DUCKLAIR MANOR.

LOOK AT THAT... HERE COMES THE BIGWIGS! IT'S GOTTEN SERIOUS!
ENTER, BORING.
WHY HAVEN'T I BEEN NOTIFIED OF THIS?
INITIALLY IT SEEMED TO BE A FALSE ALARM...


BUT THEN I DISCOVERED THE INVOLVEMENT OF SOME TOP EXECUTIVES AND...
BIRGIT HAS BEEN HANDLING SECURITY. WHAT ROLE DOES SHE HAVE IN ALL THIS?
I DON'T KNOW WITH CERTAINTY...
BESONE. I WANT A DETAILED REPORT. AND A REASSURING PRESS CONFERENCE IN AN HOUR.
AND... BORING?
YES?
I'M DISAP-POINTED.
I'M SORRY, DAD.
I PERSONALLY CHOSE MY EXECUTIVES. AND THAT'S WHY I HOLD RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR MISTAKES...
I HOPE I NEVER DISAPPOINT YOU.
WON'T HAPPEN. AND IF IT HAPPENS I'LL FORGIVE YOU.

NOW! THE SIEGE!
ALL FRONTS CONVERGE TOWARDS A POINT IN THE EAST!
SEEMS THAT... THE FIRE IS ALIVE!

CENTURY.
BAD THOUGHTS?
JUST ONE: *WHO* AND *WHERE*.
IT'S CLEAR THAT THE FLAMES ARE MANEUVERED. THE REASON ESCAPES ME... OF COURSE DUCKLAIR IS THERE IN THE MIDDLE OF IT, WITH HIS ENTIRE COMPANY.
YOU THINK HE'S INVOLVED?
IT'S CONTORTED AND UNPREDICTABLE, BUT I DON'T THINK HE'D WANT TO DESTROY HIS *PUBLIC IMAGE*. NO, IT'S SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T LIKE HIM.
THIS NARROWS THE SUSPECTS TO A FEW HUNDRED THOUSAND PEOPLE...
BUT *WHERE?*
BAH, IN MY OPINION THAT THING IS VERY HOT. IT MAKES A LOT OF FIRE, DOESN'T IT? WHERE WOULD YOU KEEP IT?
DO YOU KNOW A VERY COLD PLACE IN THE CITY? AND DON'T TELL ME "*HERE, IN JANUARY*" BECAUSE WE GOT A STOVE INSIDE. IT'S THAT COSTUME THAT'S THE PROBLEM. ASTRONOMAN HAD ONE OF RAW WOOL...
TAP TAP
A VERY COLD PLACE... *WHY NOT?*
SURE, IT WAS A BIT ITCHY. BUT WITH A *COTTON SHIRT* UNDER, IT WAS FANTASTIC!

ALRIGHT, RUPERT. TWO THIRDS ARE OUT, AT LEAST.
OKAY! BUT WE HAVE ANOTHER EMERGENCY... SOMETHING'S WRONG IN THE STORAGE! IF YOU CAN REPLACE ME FOR A MOMENT, I'LL GO CHECK.
Hi-Fi SOUND
OKAY, BOSS!
BOSS?! WOW.
YOU STAY HERE.
NO, I FEEL SAFER CLOSE TO YOU...
SAFER?! WOW!
VERY COLD!

HE HE! AT THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME! HOT STUFF!
RRROOOAR
M-MAYBE EVEN TOO MUCH!
JUNIPER! JUNIPER! WE HAVE TO GO!

DUCKMALL. IN A VERY COLD PLACE...
MANOMETER 24... THE AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEM MUST HAVE BLOWN!
I DARE NOT LOOK INTO THE STORAGE OF PERISHABLE FOOD!
CRASH
I DARE, ALRIGHT?
HEY!
SORRY FOR THE SHORTCUT! IT'S THAT I'VE NEVER PASSED THESE PARTS BEFORE...
THUD
IF YOU'LL ALLOW I'LL ACT SURPRISED LATER! NOW STOP IT!
I'M NOT YET DONE!

I STILL NEED TIME!
YOU NEED A GOOD HAIRDRESSER INSTEAD!
YAAARGH!
YOU TOOK THE WORDS OUT OF MY BEAK!
THIS IS BECOMING TIRESOME!
FIZZZT
AAAAARRRHHH! NOOO!
B-BUT... DON'T...

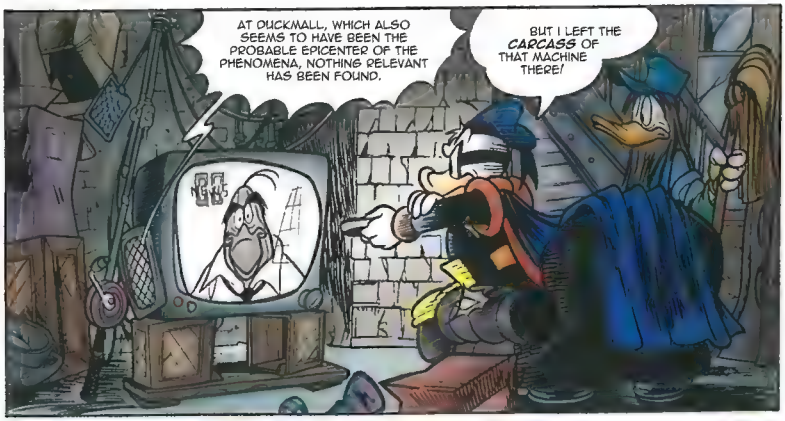
STOP! MAYBE I CAN STILL...
AAAAARRRHHH!
TUMP
UUNHH...
IF YOU HAVE FEAR OF HURTING THE ENEMY, YOU WON'T GET FAR.
OOOF!
AND YOU... DISAPPEAR!

HOWEVER, I CAME TO STOP THIS...
WUUUOOONNN
... AND HERE'S THE SWITCH!
CRUNCH
HE STOPPED IT.
TOO LATE.

"TOO LATE."
JUNIPER! JUNIPER! WHERE ARE YOU?

I'M HERE...
... WE'RE HERE.
THE MEMORIES BURN...
THE LAST DOUBTS BURN...

THE TERRIBLE FIRE THAT YESTERDAY DEVOURED THE RESIDENCE OF EVERETT DUCKLAIR HAS NOT DISPEL..ED DOUBTS ABOUT THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE BILLIONAIRE IN THE MATTER.
NEWS
NEWS
MEANWHILE, THE CITY IS SLOWLY RETURNING TO NORMAL...
"THE DAMAGES SEEM MILDER THAN THOUGHT AT FIRST AND BY NOW IT SEEMS TO AVERT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE MYSTERIOUS FIRES WILL HAPPEN AGAIN."


AT DUCKMALL, WHICH ALSO SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN THE PROBABLE EPICENTER OF THE PHENOMENA, NOTHING RELEVANT HAS BEEN FOUND.
BUT I LEFT THE CARCASS OF THAT MACHINE THERE!

AND DID YOU CLOSE THE DOOR, BEFORE LEAVING?

DUCKLAIR TOWER.
IT'S BEEN TAKEN CARE OF. THE REMAINS ARE IN THE LABORATORY... A GOOD JOB, ALTHOUGH DIFFICULT.
WELL DONE. AT LEAST THIS.

THAT OTHER MATTER REMAINS TO BE SETTLED. I DON'T EVEN WANT TO SEE HER FACE...
I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.

SEARCH FOR JUNIPER AFTERWARDS. SHE SHOULD NEVER REMAIN ALONE, AFTER WHAT HAPPENED.
IT WILL BE DONE.

HE'S DECIDED TO LET YOU GO, WITHOUT CONSEQUENCES. NATURALLY YOU DON'T HAVE FINANCIAL CLAIMS.
WHAT YOU DID DISGUSTS ME. BUT I EXPECTED IT FROM YOU! I ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU WERE A ROUGE.
I WON'T HIT YOU ONLY BECAUSE YOU'RE A FRACTION OF A MAN, BORING.
THAT MAY BE... BUT WHAT LITTLE THERE IS IS LOYAL!
IF YOU ONLY KNEW WHO'S TRULY DISLOYAL...
BUT I CERTAINLY WON'T DO DUCKLAIR A FAVOR, PUTTING HIM ON GUARD!

... AND FINALLY, A FORMER FIREMAN, NOW RETIRED, WAS REWARDED THE MEDAL OF HONOR FOR HAVING PROMPTLY REPORTED THE FIRST FIRE!
A MEDAL WILL ALSO BE GIVEN TO THE CHIEF OF SECURITY ON TRIAL AT DUCKMALL CENTER, RUPERT POTOMAC...
HURRAY!
THE CEREMONY WILL TAKE PLACE TOMORROW IN THE PRESENCE OF THE MAYOR!
CONGRATULATIONS, OLD PAL!
HE HE!
HEY, HEY... CONGRATULATIONS TWICE!
I'M SO HAPPY FOR YOU! YOU DESERVED IT!
THEY STILL DIDN'T EXPLAIN...
I'LL EXPLAIN IT TO YOU. HE BEHAVED WELL, MADE THE RIGHT DECISIONS, WASN'T UNNERVED... THE FACT IS THAT YOU'VE ALWAYS UNDERESTIMATED HIM.

I'VE LEARNED EVERYTHING FROM YOU, BOSS!
DON'T EXAGGERATE...
DITTO!
HMPF!
DID SOMEONE FOLLOW YOU?
NO, I WAS CAREFUL.
NOT EVEN THAT INTRIGUING MASKED DUCK? I THOUGHT THAT THERE MIGHT BE TENDERNESS BETWEEN YOU...
HE'S COURAGEOUS AND HAS SOMETIMES BEEN USEFUL TO ME. BUT I'M NOT CONTENT WITH SO LITTLE.

DO YOU THINK OUR FATHER HAS SUSPICIONS?
CERTAINLY. BUT IT WILL REMAIN SO... HE COULDN'T USE THE MYSTICAL WEB TO SEE YOUR THOUGHTS. THERE WAS NO TIME TO.
HE WOULD ONLY SEE HATE.
AND HE WOULD HAVE RECOGNIZED YOU. HE'S NOT A FOOL.
BUT HE'S A LOSER.
YEAH...
ISN'T IT BEAUTIFUL HERE, NOW, AFTER THE FIRE?
FINE